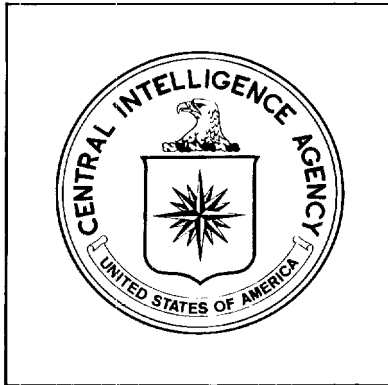


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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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India-Afghanistan

President Daoud's Visit to India

India is continuing a policy of moderate support for Afghanistan, but refuses to be drawn into the Afghan-Pakistani dispute arising from Kabul's advocacy of self-determination for the tribes of "Pushtunistan," Pakistan's two frontier provinces.

There is no indication that the Indian government, during President Daoud's visit to New Delhi this month, agreed to increase support for Kabul in its dispute with Pakistan. Daoud's hard-line toward Pakistan, more than any other factor, cements Indo-Afghan relations which have grown closer since Daoud came to power in 1973. New Delhi has been careful, however, not to encourage Afghan provocations along the Pakistani-Afghan border that could lead to war.

While in India, Daoud denounced Prime Minister Bhutto's policies toward the frontier provinces as well as a recent change in US policy that permits the sale of arms to Pakistan. New Delhi, however, did not issue any parallel statements, and the tone of the joint communique was mild.

Afghan embassy officials in New Delhi consider India's position on Pushtunistan "vague," but they acknowledge that India would have trouble supporting self-determination for Pushtunistan while at the same time refusing the same for Kashmir. However, the Afghans are presumably disappointed that New Delhi has reduced its flow of anti-Pakistan propaganda on Pushtunistan as a result of some improvement in Indo-Pakistani relations in recent months.

India, nonetheless, is continuing to accommodate Daoud's requests for various types of economic and military assistance. During the recent talks in

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New Delhi, the two sides confirmed a number of technical projects that were proposed last summer. About 150 Indian experts will go to Afghanistan by the end of the year and several hundred Afghans will receive training in India. Some 200 Afghans are currently undergoing military training in India and the number may be expanded to 500 this year.
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